Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Color of Water Study Guide chapters 10-16

Chapter 10

1. Explain the quote, “Bearing fruits of their own confusion” on page 96. What literary device is being used?
2. Why did McBride create “the boy in the mirror”? Why did he come to hate his own creation?

Chapter 11

1. Why did Ruth/Rachel like the black folk?
2. What was it about Peter that attracted Ruth?
3. What, besides turtles and crabs, did the people sometimes find in their nets?
4. Who was the one white person who knew about Ruth and Peter? Why did this person protect Ruth?

Chapter 12

1. How did Hunter Jordan treat all the children?
2. Whose shoe did Hunter once polish?
3. What was number 1 on Mama’s “don’t” list?
4. How did Hunter respond to the culture of the 60s?
5. What eventually happened to the brownstone house in Brooklyn?
6. What finally became of Daddy Jordan?
7. Why was James not able to tell his step-father that he loved him?

Chapter 13

1. What disease did Ruth’s mother suffer from?
2. Which one of Ruth’s aunts had a live-in German maid?
3. Who was the only relative that Ruth felt loved her?
4. What are some of the secrets that Mameh’s family keeps? What role does secrets play in Ruth’s life?
5. What does Ruth mean when she says, “If you throw water on the floor, it will always find a hole”?

Chapter 14-16

1. Given that the steps of the grieving process are 1. denial 2. anger 3. guilt 4. bargaining 5. depression 6. acceptance, correlate each step with first Ruth’s and then James’s reactions to Hunter Jordan’s death.
2. Who is Jack? What is the role this person plays in James’s family?
3. What did Chicken Man call white folks?
4. Who sat in the corner for two days rocking and drinking?
5. What is the final irony in Chicken Man’s life?
6. How do we know Ruth comes close to completely falling apart? What is the one thing that holds her together? What circumstances trigger her anguish?
7. Analyze the irony and symbolism of Ruth’s attempt to drive Hunter Jordan’s car?
8. What lasting effects do the events discussed in Chapter 15 seem to have on Ruth?
9. In regard to Ruth and Frances’ friendship, what evidence from the story helps to define the kind of friendship they shared?

Chapter 12

Race was “a detail you stepped over, like a crack in the sidewalk”. Explain this quote as Macbride used it in the book on page 125.

Explain the following quote on page 128: “her cries circling the house like a spirit”. What type of literary device is being used? What is the meaning of this quote?

Chapter 13

Explain the following quote on page 135: “If you throw water on the floor, it will always find a hole”.

Chapter 14

Why did Macbride compare the notes Mommy played to “echoes through the house and ended on the walls like tears”. What literary device is being used?

How many people tend to do as Macbride and fight injustices they never experienced?

How do you feel about Chicken Man’s advice to Macbride?

Chapter 16

Why did James give such a detailed description of his stepfather’s car?

Why does James use words like weebled, wobbled, and leaned on page 163 when he described Mama after Hunter’s death? What literary device is he using?

What is symbolic about Rachel/Ruth’s driving skills or lack thereof?